

CLAIMS

1.- Use of a sulphated polysaccharide in acid form or as a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, selected from the group consisting of inulin sulphate, gellan sulphate, pullulan sulphate, curdlan sulphate, alginic acid sulphate, laminarin sulphate, and pectin sulphate, for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of arthrosis in a mammal.

2.- Use according to claim 1, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide in acid form or as a physiologically acceptable salt thereof is selected from the group consisting of inulin sulphate, gellan sulphate, pullulan sulphate, and curdlan sulphate.

3.- Use according to claim 2, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide is inulin sulphate.

4.- Use according to claim 2, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide is gellan sulphate.

5.- Use according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide is totally or partially salified with an alkaline or alkaline earth metal.

6.- Use according to claim 5, wherein the alkaline metal is sodium.

7.- Use according to claim 6, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide in the form of a sodium salt is inulin sulphate sodium salt.

8.- Use according to claim 6, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide in the form of a sodium salt is gellan sulphate sodium salt.

9.- Use according to claim 7, wherein the inulin sulphate sodium salt exhibits a degree of sulphation between 25% and 62%, on anhydrous base.

10.- Use according to claim 9, wherein the degree of sulphation is between 55% and 62%, on anhydrous base.

11.- Use according to claim 1, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide is partially hydrolysed.

12.- Use according to claims 1 or 11, wherein the sulphated polysaccharide is a polysulphated polysaccharide.

13.- Use according to claim 12, wherein the polysulphated polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of inulin polysulphate, gellan polysulphate, pullulan polysulphate, curdlan polysulphate, alginic acid polysulphate, laminarin polysulphate, and pectin polysulphate.

14.- Use according to claim 13, wherein the polysulphated polysaccharide is inulin polysulphate.

15.- Use according to claim 14, wherein the inulin polysulphate is inulin polysulphate sodium salt.

16.- Use according to claim 13, wherein the polysulphated polysaccharide is gellan polysulphate.

17.- Use according to claim 16, wherein the gellan polysulphate is gellan polysulphate sodium salt.

18.- Use of carrageenan polysulphate for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of arthrosis in a mammal.

19.- Use of a sulphated oligosaccharide in acid form or as a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, derived from a polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of inulin, gellan, pullulan, curdlan, alginic acid, laminarin, and pectin, for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of arthrosis in a mammal.

20.- Use according to claim 19, wherein the sulphated oligosaccharide is derived from inulin.

21.- Use according to claim 19, wherein the sulphated oligosaccharide is

derived from gellan.

22.- Use according to any one of claims 19 to 21, wherein the sulphated oligosaccharide is a polysulphated oligosaccharide.

23.- Use of a sulphated oligosaccharide in acid form or as a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, produced by chemical synthesis, whose structure corresponds to a portion of the structure of a sulphated polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of inulin sulphate, gellan sulphate, pullulan sulphate, curdlan sulphate, alginic acid sulphate, laminarin sulphate, and pectin sulphate, for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of arthrosis in a mammal.

24.- Use according to any one of claims 1 to 23, wherein the medicament is adapted for oral administration.

25.- Use according to any one of claims 1 to 23, wherein the medicament is adapted for intra-articular administration.